GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:104
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
POLLUTION IN METROPOLIS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the order-wise names of most polluted cities of the country and their ranking in the list of polluted cities of the world;

(b) the existing level of pollution in each of the said city;

(c) whether the Government have conducted or propose to conduct any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the increase in pollution in metropolitan cities particularly Mumbai?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a),(b),(c),(d) & (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b), (c), (d) & (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.1 FOR 26.11.2001 REGARDING POLLUTION IN METROPOLIS.

(a) No recent comparative studies giving reliable figures are available in this regard.

(b) According to studies conducted by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards /Pollution Control Committees in Union Territories the existing levels of pollution in the four cities are as under:

City	Sulphur dioxide (SO2)	Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx)	Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM)
	Micrograms per cubic metre ((g/m3)		
Delhi	17.0	31.0	370
Kolkata	14.0	30.0	280
Chennai	8.5	16.0	105
Mumbai	9.7	30.0	241

(c) & (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards /Pollution Control Committees i Union Territories are regularly monitoring ambient air quality at 290 stations covering 92 cities /towns in 24 States and 5 Union Territories. The ambient air quality is being monitored for Sulphur dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen dioxide (NO2), Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM).

(e) The steps taken by the Government to check pollution in metropolitan cities particularly Mumbai include the following:

- A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

- A network of ambient air (290) and water (507) Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up.

- Ambient air quality monitoring is being carried out at Sion and Mulund for Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), Sulphur dioxide (SO2), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx), Carbon monoxide (CO) and Hydrocarbons (HC) by Maharashtra State Pollutio Control Board. Ambient air quality is being monitored at Mahim, Andheri and Wadala by Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

- Action Plans for control of pollution in Delhi and Mumbai are being implemented and similar action plans have been prepared for Chennai and Hyderabad.

- In Mumbai 22 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) dispensing stations have been put in to operation.

- Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Low sulphur fuel (petrol and diesel) with 0.05% sulphur content maximum has also been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

- In Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai) Bharat Stage II norms akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.1.2001.These norms have also been made effective for vehicles with GVW exceeding 3500 kg from 31.10.2001.

- Highly polluting industries have been identified. Defaulting Industries have been directed to install necessary pollution control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

- Restrictive Industrial location policy is enforced in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) in Zone-I of the MMR and Thane Municipa Corporation area. No additional pollution generating activities are permitted.

- Environmental epidemiological studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution.

- Effluent and emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

- For control of water pollution from clusters of small-scale industries, subsidy has been given for 89 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs). CETPs have been installed at industrial estates at Tarapur, Thane-Belapur, Dombiwali and Ambernath.

- Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 1994 is in force governing environmental appraisal of 30 specified categories of developmental projects.

- Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.

- A notification of control noise pollution emanating from various sources with the help of local authorities has been notified in February, 2000.

- Noise standards for stationary diesel sets (15-500 KVA) have been notified in January, 1999.

- Noise standards for fire crackers had been notified in October, 1999.

- Noise limits for portable generator sets run with petrol and kerosene have been notified in September, 2000.

- Noise limits for vehicles have been revised and notified in September, 2000 effective from 1st January, 2003.

- Twenty-four critically polluted areas have been identified. Action Plans have been drawn up for restoration of environmental quality in these areas.